



## Drinking Water

### What is drinking water?

- Drinking water is any water supplied for the purpose of human consumption or domestic use.
- This water comes from several different sources including:
  - ground water from private and municipal wells
  - surface water from rivers and lakes.

### What types of systems provide drinking water?

**Community systems** (municipal water supplies, subdivisions and mobile home parks)

- This is a public drinking water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents.

**Nontransient Noncommunity systems** (schools, daycare centers and factories)

- This is a public drinking water system that is not a community system that regularly serves the same 25 or more persons for at least six months out of the year.

**Transient Noncommunity systems** (churches, restaurants, grocery stores and campgrounds)

- This is a system that does not regularly serve 25 of the same people more than six months out of the year.

**Private systems**

- Systems that don't qualify as one of the above systems. The most common example is an individual well serving a single property

### What does IDEM do to protect Indiana's drinking water?

IDEM's Office of Water Quality, Drinking Water Branch is broken down into four sections:

- **Compliance section** – Ensures all public water supplies are complying with state and federal standards, including water quality and treatment techniques. This is done through sampling data collection and analysis, as well as compliance assistance.
- **Field inspection section** – Offers technical assistance, performs facility inspections, provides follow-up if contaminants are detected, and provides emergency assistance.
- **Construction permits section** – Reviews and approves construction plans for new and existing public water systems that provide drinking to the public. Conducts on site inspection of public water systems to ensure compliance with the permit/approval. Conducts research on new, emerging treatment technology.
- **Ground water section** – Investigates private well complaints and works with communities to ensure their drinking water source is free of contaminants.

### What are drinking water standards?

Drinking water standards are regulations that U.S. EPA sets to control the level of contaminants in the nation's public drinking water systems. There are two categories of drinking water standards:

- A [National Primary Drinking Water Regulation](#) (NPDWR or primary standard) is a legally- enforceable standard that applies to public water systems. Primary standards protect drinking water quality by limiting the levels of specific contaminants that can adversely affect public health and are known or anticipated to occur in water.
- A [National Secondary Drinking Water Regulation](#) (NSDWR or secondary standard) is a non-enforceable guideline regarding contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. U.S. EPA recommends secondary standards to water systems, but does not require systems to comply. However, states may choose to adopt them as enforceable standards. Indiana has not adopted secondary standards.

### Where can I get more information?

For additional information, contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Drinking Water at (800) 451-6027 ext. 308-3282 or visit IDEM's Web page at:

<http://www.in.gov/idem/water/dwb/index.html>